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LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my report of 25 October 1991 (S/23169) which I had addressed to the Security Council in response to operative paragraph 3 of resolution 713, I should like to bring the following to your attention and to that of your colleagues in the Council.

You will recall that I indicated to the members of the Council during informal consultations on 15 November 1991, that I had decided to ask my Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus R. Vance, accompanied by Under-Secretary-General Goulding and a team of other officials, to travel forthwith to Yugoslavia to discuss with the principal parties to the present conflict there the feasibility of deploying a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia. I did so in light of various indications that I had received in the preceding days to the effect that the establishment of such an operation would be desired by Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Republic of Serbia, by Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, and by General Velkjo Kadijevic, Secretary of State for National Defence of the SFRY.

Mr. Vance travelled to Yugoslavia on Sunday, 17 November and remained in the country until Saturday, 23 November. During that time he conducted intensive consultations with the above-mentioned parties and with a number of other interlocutors.

On Saturday, 23 November, Mr. Vance convened at the United Nations Office at Geneva a meeting to pursue discussion of the feasibility of establishing a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia. Present at the meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Vance, were President Milosevic, President Tudjman and General Kadijevic, as well as Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Conference on Yugoslavia. Mr. Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, also contributed to the discussion. During the meeting, the Yugoslav parties reached an agreement, the signed text of which is attached to the present letter.

The meeting which Mr. Vance chaired in Geneva yesterday was a constructive one. The agreement which was signed by the three Yugoslav

participants provides for the immediate lifting by Croatia of its blockade of Yugoslav army barracks, the immediate withdrawal from Croatia of blockaded personnel and their equipment, and, most important of all, a cease-fire which is to come into effect today, 24 November 1991. I believe that it is vitally important that the commitments entered into yesterday at Geneva be immediately and fully implemented by the parties. During the meeting, Mr. Vance made clear to the parties that one could not envisage the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation without a lasting and effective cease-fire. The agreement reached yesterday in Geneva also provides for the Yugoslav parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the conflict.

As regards the possibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia, each of the Yugoslav participants in yesterday's meeting stated that they wanted to see the deployment of such an operation as soon as possible. During the course of the discussion, Mr. Vance and Under-Secretary-General Goulding described a possible concept of such an operation, its mandate, its organization and the areas where it would be deployed. The suggested concept was generally welcomed by the Yugoslav participants in his meeting. It was agreed that further work would need to be done on defining those areas and that this work should be undertaken as rapidly as possible in order to enable Mr. Vance to conclude his consultations with the parties and make a recommendation to me on the possible establishment of a peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia.

Having received from Mr. Vance today in Rome the report of his visit to Yugoslavia, and of the meeting which he chaired yesterday in Geneva, I have asked him to continue his important mission, and in particular - together with Under-Secretary-General Goulding - to carry forward the work referred to in the preceding paragraph.

It would be my intention, Mr. President, to report further to the Council in the period ahead. In the meantime, I am arranging for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR

Annex

The undersigned agree that:

(a) Croatia will, with immediate effect, lift its blockade of all JNA barracks and installations in Croatia;

(b) The JNA will, with immediate effect, begin the withdrawal from Croatia of the personnel, weapons and military equipment in those barracks and installations and complete this process in accordance with the schedules already agreed upon by the parties;

(c) They will immediately instruct all units under their command, control or political influence to observe an unconditional cease-fire with effect from tomorrow, 24 November, and they will make sure that any paramilitary or irregular units not formally under their command, control or political influence also observe the cease-fire from that date;

(d) They will facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the recent hostilities.

Lord Carrington will seek to ensure that the international Monitoring Mission does everything within its power and mandate to ensure that the cease-fire holds.

Geneva
23 November 1991